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*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: Vietnamese Communist spokesmen are taking an uncompromising line on both negotiations and prospects for peace.


This stiffness probably has been influenced by factors such as new aid commitments from other Communist countries, Peking's progress in curbing its domestic turmoil, and Hanoi's apparent conviction that the Allied military effort has been by and large stalemated.

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South Vietnam: President-elect Thieu foresees a watchdog role for his vice-president in the new government.

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 Thieu claimed that Ky's duties will consist of purging corruption and incompetence "in our ranks," a task which will involve overseeing the activities of province chiefs and other important officials. Thieu said this will require more power for Ky than the vice president ought to have under the constitution, and he will, therefore, have to work through the authority of the president.

Thieu also hopes to have Tran Van Huong head the Inspectorate, a body set up specifically to investigate and reduce corruption--one of Huong's pet campaign issues.

(continued)

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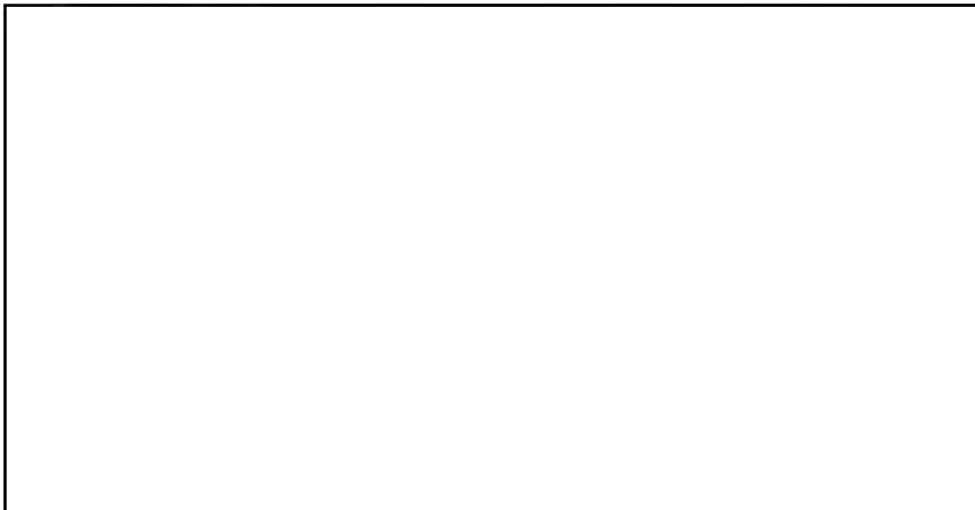
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Trouble has broken out in Quang Ngai Province between revolutionary development officials and provincial authorities.

According to one account, on 4 October some 200 revolutionary development workers seized certain provincial section chiefs, shaved their heads, and released them. The workers went on to demonstrate in the vicinity of provincial headquarters, and the South Vietnamese Army 2nd Division had moved into Quang Ngai city to restore order. Neither the cause nor the extent of the strife is readily apparent. It may be a purely local dispute.

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NOTES

Egypt: Nasir's domestic political position continues to be reported as shaky. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] some groups, including government officials, believe Nasir must eventually go, even though at present there is no one able or willing to replace him and he still has considerable appeal for the masses.

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*Nigeria: Federal forces reportedly captured Enugu, capital of secessionist Biafra, on 4 October. The whereabouts of Ojukwu and other top Biafran leaders are unknown as is the status of the recently augmented forces defending Enugu. Although at least guerrilla resistance is likely to continue, this latest setback could lead to an early attempt by some Ibo officers, perhaps acting with civilian Ibos, to displace Ojukwu and open negotiations with Lagos.

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